

REMARKS

Independent claim 20 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention, specifically that the slidable wedge is disposed for causing displacement of claws upon translational sliding movement of the wedge.... Claim 23 has been added to alternatively define the present invention.

The traditional meaning of translational is: “Of or relating to uniform movement without rotation.” Thus, this clearly distinguishes the present invention from European Patent Application 0552621.

The Examiner has rejected claims 20, 11, 16, and 19 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by EP ‘621. It should be clear from Figure 1 of EP ‘621 that the wedge 9 is disposed for rotation in order to displace the claws. Thus, in accordance with the criteria set down for anticipation and recited in the amendment filed March 10, 2009 since EP ‘621 does not include a sliding wedge disposed for translational movement, a rejection of the claims is not sustainable under 35 USC 102(b). The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

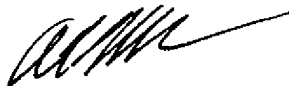
Claims 20, 16, and 19 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 354 5273.

As earlier argued, DE ‘273 provides for a wedge which is guided vertically in a clamping direction. That is, there is no inclination of the wedge guided directed as set forth in independent claim 20 wherein the guiding direction is defined as being at an angle α with respect to the clamping direction. Accordingly, it must be concluded that the basis for anticipation has not been met on the basis of the DE ‘273 reference. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection. Claim 20 has been amended to include specifically that the guiding direction is inclined at an angle α with respect to the clamping direction.

With regard to claims 13 and 14 and 21, 22 rejected in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) on the basis of EP '621 and DE '273, the Applicants submit that if an independent claim is non-obvious under 35 USC 103 then any claim depending therefrom is non-obvious. *In re Fine*, 5 USPQ 2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections based upon 35 USC 103(a).

In view of the arguments hereinabove set forth and amendment to the claims, it is submitted that each of the claims now in the application define patentable subject matter not anticipated by the art of record and not obvious to one skilled in this field who is aware of the references of record. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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